

# Characteristics of each spiritual style

## Word centred

- Value cognitive knowledge about God.
- Although many books and writings may help these young people learn about God, sacred texts are of particular importance providing accurate and reliable information about God and they reveal God to these children.
- The people who have a spiritual influence on these children are those who help them make gains in their knowledge of God: teachers, family members, and church leaders.



## Emotion centred

- Power of music or art to evoke feeling is a vital component
- Spaces in which congregations make music are important, and children enjoy spending time in these places.
- The opportunity to feel close to God is valued.
- Worship has a central place in the spiritual life of those with an emotion-centered spirituality who focus on corporate worship as a vital characteristic of their congregations and their experiences with God.
- Those who lead music or worship have the most impact on nurturing their spiritual lives.
- Art and images help to find expression of a personal spirituality.



## Symbol centred

- Value places with plenty of room where they can quietly and silently spend time with God.
- They love nature, being outside among God's creation.
- Like to be alone, but family members can be strong influences on their spiritual lives.
- Prayer is a vital practice often manifested in quiet, private ways.
- When it comes to God, they see the value in the mysteriousness of the Divine and they can be suspicious of those who seek to explain away all of God's mysteries.



## Action centred

- God and the spiritual life cannot be fully expressed to others.
- Causes people to do more than pray for the world; they actively seek to transform it.
- In the tradition of the prophets and liberation theologians, the transformational goal of this style is to change oppressive and harmful aspects of society while stressing God's love presence.
- Can be impulsive and often avoid being constrained by rules and regulations.

